

XXXXXX AGENCY

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From: Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, USN
To: The Secretary of the Navy (Board of Medals and Awards)
Subj: Captain John S. Harper, USN; recommendation of award for.
Encl: Suggested citation

1. It has just been learned that a recommendation for an award to Captain (then Lieutenant Commander) John S. Harper, submitted shortly after Pearl Harbor, has not been received.

2. Captain Harper at the time of Pearl Harbor was serving as Damage Control Officer aboard the USS West Virginia. When the attack started about 0755, 7 December 1941, Captain Harper went to his station and immediately set about endeavoring to correct the damage suffered by the West Virginia at the very beginning of the attack. Captain Harper directed the counter-flooding of the West Virginia which, undoubtedly, prevented the ship from capsizing, and, when the attack was ended, he left his battle station in the Central Station and assumed active charge of the fire-fighting on the upper decks. He remained at his post, fighting the extensive fire, from approximately 1000, Sunday, 7 December 1941, until the late afternoon of Monday, 8 December 1941, before the fire was finally extinguished. His example and his industry and ability were in great measure responsible for the final extinguishing of the fire. He distinguished himself throughout both of these days by his coolness, his courage, his energy, and his endurance.

3. A suggested citation is enclosed.

o/RHH Dir 11/4/47
R. H. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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cc - Captain John S. Harper, USN

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C I T A T I O N

Captain (then Lieutenant Commander) John S. Harper distinguished himself on 7 and 8 December 1941 by his coolness, his courage, his energy and his endurance. He was serving at the time of Pearl Harbor as Damage Control Officer aboard the USS West Virginia. When the attack started about 0755, 7 December 1941, Captain Harper went to his station and immediately set about endeavoring to correct the damage suffered by the West Virginia at the very beginning of the attack. Captain Harper directed the counter-flooding of the West Virginia which, undoubtedly, prevented the ship from capsizing, and, when the attack was ended, he left his battle station in the Central Station and assumed active charge of the fire-fighting on the upper decks, until late the afternoon of 8 December 1941 when the fire was finally extinguished. His example and his industry and ability were in great measure responsible for the final extinguishing of the fire.